

## Prayer Timings

Fajr .....	03:39	Asr .....	15:30
Sunrise ..	05:08	Maghrib ..	18:41
Zohr .....	11:54	Isha .....	20:07

# Local

VACCINE REGISTRATION WEBSITE: [https://cov19vaccine.moh.gov.kw/SPCMS/CVD\\_19\\_Vaccine\\_Registration.aspx](https://cov19vaccine.moh.gov.kw/SPCMS/CVD_19_Vaccine_Registration.aspx)

## Taiwan

Continued from Page 2

with governments, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations to promote a number of humanitarian aid projects assisting Syrian refugees. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Taiwan also provided anti-pandemic supplies to Syrian refugee camps and communities in Jordan and Turkey to help combat the disease. In the future, Taiwan will continue to offer substantive international humanitarian assistance.

**Q:** How can countries in the Middle East benefit from Taiwan's experience?

**A:** Taiwan boasts a large talent base of professionals in numerous domains, including public health, ICT, disaster relief, energy cooperation, women's empowerment, the digital economy, cybersecurity, freedom of the press, and agricultural technology. Taiwan would be happy to share its skills, knowledge, and successful experiences with Kuwait and the Arab world.

In 2015, Taiwan and the United States signed a memorandum of understanding establishing the Global Cooperation and Training Framework (GCTF), which provides a comprehensive platform to amplify Taiwan's strengths and help address global issues.

In addition to further strengthening relations with like-minded countries, such as the United States, Japan, and Australia, in recent years Taiwan has invited experts from the Middle East to participate in seminars on topics such as vaccine roll-outs and enhancing disaster resilience capabilities, expanding cooperation and exchanges with partners from other regions.

**Q:** What can small sovereign nations do to maintain their independence in light of the huge changes in power in the world?

**A:** As smaller nations face an ever-changing global landscape, they must be wise if they hope to succeed. Only then can they safeguard their national sovereignty and dignity. Being wise calls for bolstering national strengths and developing economic advantages. It also requires proactively embracing the international community, extensively cultivating friendships, and forging robust and pragmatic partnerships with like-minded nations. This can help smaller countries remain resilient in a dynamic world and obtain the greatest benefit.

Although Taiwan is a small country in terms of land area, it stands out as a beacon of democracy in Asia, known for its inclusive and diverse culture. Taiwan ranks among the top 25 global trading partners and has the fifth-largest foreign exchange reserves in the world. It boasts an advanced high-tech industry, particularly with regard to semiconductor foundries, accounting for up to 65 percent of global output. Moreover, Taiwan occupies a strategic position in the Western Pacific first island chain and stands on the front lines, defending the global democratic community against authoritarian China. Taiwan plays a critical role in safeguarding the peace and stability of the Indo-Pacific region.

Although China has never ceased its attempts to diminish Taiwan's international presence, Taiwan has still managed to actively participate in the international community and make a number of concrete contributions. We are pleased that the world recognizes Taiwan's significance and the threats it faces from China. Recent international events, including QUAD, the G7 Summit, and the EU-US Summit, have attached great importance to peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait. This is a true testament to the international support Taiwan has received. Taiwan will continue to advance steadfast diplomacy in the spirit of mutual assistance for mutual benefit and seek to enhance bilateral relations with Kuwait and other Middle Eastern nations. We hope that countries worldwide will better understand the challenges facing Taiwan and the extent of its international contributions and therefore extend even greater support to Taiwan.

**Q:** What role does diplomacy play in ensuring the continued sovereignty of Taiwan? How does that inform the Ministry's bilateral relations?

**A:** Given the threats and challenges from China, international support is of paramount importance for Taiwan to safeguard its sovereignty, rights, and interests. Diplomacy naturally plays a pivotal role in this regard. Taiwan proactively promotes steadfast diplomacy, embraces the international community, and consolidates relations with diplomatic allies. It also deepens substantive relations and expands cooperation in various domains with friendly, like-minded nations. For example, last December, Taiwan signed an agreement on double taxation avoidance and the prevention of tax evasion with Saudi Arabia, as well as a memorandum of understanding with Turkey on cooperation relating to small and medium-

sized enterprises.

As a force for good in the world, Taiwan makes concrete contributions to the global community through its soft power and warm power. Taiwan is willing and able to help, and for this, it has been widely recognized internationally. A growing number of prominent political and media figures and opinion leaders around the globe have begun speaking up for Taiwan. The strong international support for Taiwan's participation in this year's World Health Assembly was unprecedented, with high-ranking officials in the United States and Europe publicly endorsing Taiwan's bid. In 2019, members of the parliaments of the United Kingdom, Germany, and France, as well as members of the European Parliament, established a transnational interparliamentary platform called the Formosa Club. Other Formosa Clubs were subsequently established in Latin America, Africa, West Asia, and the Asia-Pacific. These developments can be attributed to our diplomatic efforts.

China's relentless rhetorical assaults, military intimidation, and suppression of our international presence pose daunting challenges to Taiwan. However, Taiwan is not alone. We are confident that, through our diplomatic efforts, an increasing number of friends worldwide will see and hear Taiwan. We hope that the international community will unite in support of Taiwan and help safeguard its sovereignty.

**Q:** What role does public diplomacy play in building stronger relations with key countries?

**A:** Public diplomacy differs from traditional diplomatic strategies in that it entails the use of information sharing, national branding, cultural exchanges, and other avenues to create, enhance, and promote a favorable national image, which cultivates positive perceptions of the country among all sectors. This also bolsters identification with and support for Taiwan and helps create a more friendly international environment.

China creates a negative national image by employing its military and economic hard power to engage in so-called "wolf warrior" aggressive threats and diplomatic intimidation, as well as utilizing its sharp power to spread disinformation, misleading the global community and disrupting the international order. In contrast, Taiwan projects a positive image to the world by upholding the core values of democracy, human rights, humanitarianism, philanthropy, multiculturalism, quality healthcare, and sustainable development.

Taiwan's private sector has abundant resources and creative capabilities. Our people are loving, compassionate, warm, and friendly, and they have endeavored to contribute to the world and many concrete results have been yielded. Taiwan has harnessed these dynamic and boundless resources in the service of public diplomacy. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) is committed to continuing to promote Taiwan's positive image and has integrated public and private resources to broaden support and forge friendships worldwide. For instance, as the COVID-19 pandemic ravaged the globe last year, Taiwan combined the strengths and resources of the government and the private sector to contribute to the international community. To date, Taiwan has donated approximately 54 million surgical masks to over 80 countries, including two million to West Asia and Africa, to which we have also donated other antipandemic supplies (such as forehead thermometers, protective gowns, and rapid test kits). More people than ever before have experienced Taiwan's warmth and have to come to recognize it as a force for good in the world.

In addition to its efforts in traditional areas of national branding, MOFA and its overseas missions have also enhanced Taiwan's positive image through Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, and other social media platforms. By connecting with individuals across a wide variety of nations, regions, sectors, and domains, we have fostered a better global understanding of Taiwan and encouraged the world to unite in support of Taiwan.

**Q:** In conclusion, What is your most important commitment as the foreign minister of Taiwan?

**A:** Looking ahead, Taiwan is committed to strengthening cooperation with like-minded countries to counter China's hard power, sharp power, and disinformation campaigns. Taiwan will collaborate with nongovernmental and other civic organizations to engage in international humanitarian endeavors, making contributions and demonstrating Taiwan's love for the world. By employing soft power and warm power, and continuing to harness the far-reaching influence of the internet and social media, Taiwan will make its voice heard around the world.

### Expected weather for the next 24 hours:

**By Day:** Very hot and relatively humid over coastal areas with light variable wind to light to moderate north westerly wind with speeds of 08-28 km/h.

**By Night:** Hot to rather hot and

### Weather

relatively humid over coastal areas with light variable wind to light to moderate north westerly wind with speeds of 08-28 km/h.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	47	34
Kuwait Airport	47	29

Abdaly	47	28
Jahra	48	31
Salmiyah	42	35
Ahmadi	42	35
Wafra	46	26
Salmiyah	45	31
Jal Aliyah	45	31
Managish	-	-



Kuwait's karate team poses for a picture with Nihonmatsu Mayor Miho and citizens.

KUNA photo

## Nihonmatsu City congratulates Kuwait Olympic team

The mayor and citizens of Japan's Nihonmatsu City, which hosts Kuwaiti Olympians for pre-games training camps, offered Friday their heartfelt congratulations to the shooter Abdullah Al-Rashidi for winning a bronze medal.

Nihonmatsu Mayor Keiichi Miho and representatives of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry

visited the Karate team members, who are currently staying in the city for training to give a congratulatory message and 15 kg of Fukushima Prefecture's specialty peaches, Vice-President Hideharu Ohta of the chamber told Kuwait News Agency (KUNA).

In appreciation for Kuwait's support following the massive

earthquake that hit Fukushima 10 years ago, Nihonmatsu City, located about 200 km northeast of Tokyo and boasts one of Japan's largest shooting ranges has applied to host the Kuwaiti team for pre-games training camps.

Kuwait Embassy in Tokyo honored shooter Abdullah Al-Turgi for winning the bronze medal in the

skeet category in the 2020 Summer Olympics.

In a statement received by KUNA on Friday, the embassy said that Ambassador Hassan Zaman organized the honoring ceremony with the presence of Chairman of Kuwait Olympic Committee Sheikh Fahad Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. (KUNA)

# Fishing sector in deep crisis

## Shortage of fishermen

**KUWAIT CITY, July 31: Head of the Kuwait Union of Fishermen Dhafer Al-Suwayyan says the fishing sector is facing an unprecedented crisis due to the shortage of fishermen as a result of the COVID-19 crisis and the closure of the country, reports Al-Qabas daily.**

In a press statement, he revealed that some of the fishermen were contracted from the neighboring countries, and others have reached the age of sixty due to which their residency cannot be renewed any more.

Al-Suwayyan explained that the Kuwait fishing fleet is still in dire need of a significant number of fishermen despite the recent arrival of many from their countries who are awaiting their release from institutional quarantine.

According to this situation, it is expected that half of the Kuwaiti fishing fleet will stop its operations unless the competent authorities take the initiative to meet the union's request to allow issuance of new work permits for the fishing sector to recruit new fishermen in order to fill this shortage and operate the rest of the fishing fleet to coincide with the beginning of the shrimp season.

This severe shortage of labor may lead to shortage of fish supplies, and will thus affect the fish markets.

Al-Suwayyan expressed his hope for the quick response of the concerned authorities and the approval of the Council of Ministers concerning the union's letter for allowing issuance of new work permits for fishermen in order to solve the crisis so that the fleet works with its full potential to provide food security of marine products.

## Union

He revealed that the union was surprised by some concerned parties that did not review certain decisions that are in the public interest, solve many problems, and remove the challenges.

Al-Suwayyan stressed the importance of developing the fishing sector. Regarding the fish auction and its return especially since the shrimp fishing season will start on August 1, he said, "The absence of the auction will open the door wide to a new type of black market."

Al-Suwayyan then asked, "Where will the fishermen go with their catches and shrimp baskets?"

He stressed the need to organize auctions in Sharq and Fahaheel markets in accordance with the precautionary measures and health controls as well as under the supervision of the concerned authorities, because the return of fish and shrimp auctions in the fish markets in Sharq and Fahaheel will restore stability to the prices and allow citizens to obtain their need for fish and shrimp in the desired quantities.

Al-Suwayyan expressed his fear that fish stalls will continue to be closed in Sharq market due to the lack of fish, adding, "Today, the number of closed stalls reached 35, which is 30 percent of the fish stalls. This is worrisome, considering that this is the first time the stalls are devoid of fish. The solution is to bring back the fish auction and allow fishing for mead fish".

He renewed the union's demand to the Ministry of Health to vaccinate the remaining fishermen, stall workers and others in preparation for the return of the fish auctions before the beginning of the shrimp fishing season.

Al-Suwayyan affirmed that 80 percent of the fishermen and workers in the stalls and brokers' offices have been vaccinated with two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.

He expressed his hope that the crisis will end soon.

## 'Big difference in temp in country for 7 years'

**KUWAIT CITY, July 31: The maps of the 'Urban Thermal Islands in Kuwait' project, implemented by the Science and Technology Sector at Kuwait Institute of Scientific Research (KISR), showed a big difference in the surface temperatures in the country for seven years -- from 2013 to 2020, reports Al-Qabas daily.**

The maps revealed that the surface temperatures in different regions in June 2013 ranged from 30 to 43.1 degrees Celsius; but in June 2020 the temperatures ranged from 44.7 degrees Celsius to 54.4 degrees Celsius -- an increase of 11.3 degrees Celsius.

On the other hand, the surface temperatures in some areas; such as Sulabiya farms, large national parks in the Capital, 'sabkhat areas' and artificial lakes in Khairan maintained their coolness for seven years when the Earth's temperature ranged from 30 to 35 degrees Celsius. In a recent press statement, Project Director at the institute Heba Baron disclosed that one of the main objectives of the project is to calculate the temperature variation index between the urban and agricultural areas.

## Egypt envoy lauds support

## 'Ties with Kuwait growing in time'

**KUWAIT CITY, July 31: The Egyptian Ambassador to Kuwait, HE Tareq Al-Qoni, says relations between Egypt and Kuwait are constantly developing and growing, defying the more than a year-and-a-half Covid-19 pandemic conditions, reports Al-Rai daily.**

This came during a ceremony which was held to honor the advisor to the editor-in-chief of Al-Anba newspaper, Hossam Fathi, in the presence of the deputy editor-in-chief of Al-Anba newspaper, Secretary of the Journalists Association, Adnan Al-Rashed. The event was held to honor Fathi at the end of his tenure in Kuwait. The ambassador stressed Kuwait has been keen throughout the past period to affirm its solidarity with Egypt and the Sudan, and their efforts to resolve the crisis of the Renaissance Dam, in a manner that satisfies the two countries in accordance with international laws, stressing that the water security of Egypt and Sudan is an integral part of Arab national security.

He pointed out that Kuwait is one of the most important capitals in our "diplomatic system", stressing that the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs is always interested in selecting the competent personnel to work with Kuwait, taking into account the pivotal role played by Kuwait regionally and internationally and the complex and close relations between the two countries and peoples, stressing that some campaigns on social media have not and will not affect the relations of the two countries and the interdependence of the two peoples.

He pointed out that the new Egyptian

## Suicide foiled

## Drowning at sea

**By Munif Nayef Al-Seyassah Staff**

**KUWAIT CITY, July 31: Firefighters recovered the body of an unidentified person who drowned at sea off Salmiya and securitymen thwarted an attempt by a young woman to end her life.**

According to a security source, when the Operations Room of the Ministry of Interior received a report of drowning in the sea opposite Salmiya, the securitymen and firefighters rushed to the area, recovered the body and referred in to Forensics, to determine the identity of the person.

In other news, securitymen acting on information rushed to the Jaber Bridge and prevented the young woman from carrying out her threat to end her life by jumping from the Sheikh Jaber Bridge.

The woman has been detained for interrogation to know why she wanted to end her life. A case of attempted suicide has been filed against her.

ambassador, Osama Shaltout, worked at the Egyptian embassy in Kuwait in the 1990s, and was one of the Egyptian diplomats known for their efficiency and competence.

## Special Forces to man Jahra hospital

**KUWAIT CITY, July 31: According to reliable sources from the Ministry of Health, coordination between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Interior resulted in an agreement that officers from the Special Forces will monitor the exit and entry movements in the new Jahra Hospital as an**

organizational measure to ensure smooth movement of patients and employees, reports Al-Qabas daily.

They revealed that the new hospital is expected to witness an increase in the exit and entry process by patients suffering from COVID-19 infection or other diseases.

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